

Early Childhood Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2012

The members of the Early Childhood Advisory Council and members of the Kentucky Science Center Board of Directors gathered for a reception before the meeting, to observe and participate in the Science in Play! experimental area, a curated exhibit that focuses on early childhood learning in play.

Call to order

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:10 AM on September 20, 2012 at the Kentucky Science Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Tom Buford, Jane Chandler, Marilyn Coffey, Ben Cundiff, Ruth Ann Shepherd for Steve Davis, Paula Goff, Tracy Haddix, Cindy Heine, Felicia Cuming Smith for Terry Holliday, Rick Hulefeld, Marybeth Jackson, Aubrey Nehring, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Joe Roberts, Anna Shepherd and June Widman. Staff attending included: Albert Fox, Amanda Riley, Terry Tolan and Elizabeth Whitehouse. The following members were not present: Tom Burch, Randy Coe, Tommy Floyd, Audrey Haynes, Amy Hood Hooten, Lacey McNary, LaQuandra Nesbitt, Nicki Patton Rowe, and Bill Scott.

Welcome

Chair Rick Hulefeld welcomed the members and guests of the Early Childhood Advisory Council to the meeting location. A special welcome was given to the newest appointed member, Senator Tom Buford. Rick introduced Jo Haas, the executive director of the Kentucky Science Center.

Kentucky Science Center

Jo Haas expressed the passion for early childhood that she and her staff have for helping young learners develop the skills of problem-solving, science literacy and 21st Century thinking. The experimental exhibit, curated by the Kentucky Science Center, fills a need to encourage parent/adult involvement in contemporary science and math learning for early childhood learners.

Early Childhood Standards

Felicia Cuming Smith presented the work of the Assessment Work Group in revising the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards, which will lead to other necessary revisions to the parent guides and the continuous assessment guide. The language of the Standards has not changed drastically; instead this update includes aligning the standards with the Common Core Standards of Kentucky and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. Brigitte Ramsey congratulated the Assessment Work Group, especially for the work of aligning this document with the Common Core Standards, promoting Kentucky as a national example. On motion of Brigitte Ramsey, second by Marilyn Coffey, this revised version was approved. Rick Hulefeld asked the Assessment Work Group to consider a revision of the Introduction to include this latest work improving the Standards document. The Early Childhood Standards are in wide usage across the state and the Council believes implementation of the updated

version will be immediate and efficient. Terry Tolan commended the Work Group for moving this agenda forward aggressively by taking a disciplined approach to complete this work. Felicia Cumming-Smith individually commended the work of Amy Hood Hooten.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

On motion of Ben Cundiff, second by Aubrey Nehring, the minutes of the July 2012 meeting were approved.

Program Accountability

Cindy Heine informed the Council on the priority of the Program Accountability Work Group to make funding recommendations for the KIDS NOW Tobacco Funding dollars. At the request of Chairman Rick Hulefeld, the Work Group defined a list of priorities they would follow in making funding decisions. These principles will be applied when there is a difference in the funds projected and the funds allocated, whether this difference is positive or negative. At the suggestion of Brigitte Ramsey, the Work Group will revise the last priority bullet presented, to reflect that funding should not be “reduced,” but KIDS NOW funding will be realigned as programs become supported by other sources. On motion of Tracy Haddix, second by June Widman, the Council endorsed these principles.

Hands Presentation/Update

Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd presented a history of the HANDS home visiting program with several positive outcomes over the past nine years, reminding the council that Kentucky is the only state with a home visiting program available in all counties. Dr. Shepherd reported on the MIECHV federal funding dollars Kentucky has been awarded through a competitive grant process, providing \$8.8 Million per year in additional funding. These funds and other federal funds are leveraged with the funding HANDS receives from the KIDS NOW Tobacco dollars every year. For the next five years, HANDS will be able to reach additional families in over 60 counties with intensive services not normally available to these families. HANDSs will be able to improve their Maternal Mental Health programs to work on Moving Beyond Depression and improve systems of care across the state.

Executive Director's Report

Terry Tolan announced that Dr. James Heckman, Nobel Laureate, has accepted an invitation to speak at a luncheon, sponsored by several partners including the Prichard Committee and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, to occur in Louisville on October 24, 2012. A special on Community Early Childhood Councils appeared on CN2 on September 20, 2012 at 7pm. Terry challenged the Council members to think of private investors who may be interested in early childhood. A press conference occurred on Tuesday, September 25th announcing Toyota's support of expansion of participation in bornlearning Academies statewide that teach parenting skills to increase the intentionality of parents with their young children to make every moment a learning moment. The work of Brigitte Ramsey and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky was instrumental in both developing the bornlearning Academy model and leading Toyota to invest in this opportunity for families across the state. Terry then announced the launch of the new website for the Governor's Office of Early Childhood and invited the members of the Council to review and submit any comments or concerns to Amanda Riley.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.